

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0635_15

Senator Lines asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 85

Question

Long Day Care Professional Development Programme

Senator LINES: What is the final amount that will be allocated per head of that funding?

Ms Wilson: I think we have spoken about this before. It is variable. There were various loadings. It was not just a loading for a full-time equivalent but also a loading if you were an early childhood teacher; there is a geographic loading as well. So it is not a straightforward answer to that question.

Senator LINES: Rather than bog us down here, can you provide a breakdown nationally—by state and territory and by electorate?

Ms Wilson: I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure how we are collecting the information or how easy it is to provide. Are you asking for a state average or something?

Senator LINES: I am trying to get to how much is allocated per head. I appreciate, as you said, that there are different loadings for different levels of professionalism, and I guess also for regional and remote et cetera. So there must be some kind of formula.

Ms Paul: There is a formula, and we can spell that out. That is probably the best way to take it on notice.

Senator LINES: That would be good.

Answer

Funding provided to all eligible services via the Long Day Care Professional Development Programme (LDCPDP) has been allocated on the basis of their full time equivalent (FTE) staffing profile and geographic location:

- funding was allocated according to the number of FTE paid contact educators and early childhood teachers the service employed at the time of application
- plus a loading for geographic isolation
 - per FTE for services in outer regional* areas
 - per FTE for services in remote* and very remote* areas
- then following significant growth in the total number of educators in LDC services, to ensure funding was available for the largest number of educators as possible, the total grant funding for each service was then uniformly adjusted to ensure an equitable distribution of available funds across all eligible services.

**As defined using the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus that measures remoteness in terms of access along the road network from populated localities.*

The following table provides a breakdown by state and territory of the average LDCPDP funding allocated per FTE employed at the time of application inclusive of geographic loadings. The department does not have data readily available at the electorate level and is unable to provide this as it would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources. Variation in average grant amounts occur due to the geographic location of services and the relative FTE employed in outer regional, remote and very remote areas at the time of application, as well as numbers of early childhood teachers.

State/Territory	Average Grant Amount per FTE[#]
NSW	\$3779
VIC	\$3543
QLD	\$3979
SA	\$3879
WA	\$4009
TAS	\$4246
NT	\$7060
ACT	\$3449

[#] Rounded to the nearest whole dollar.